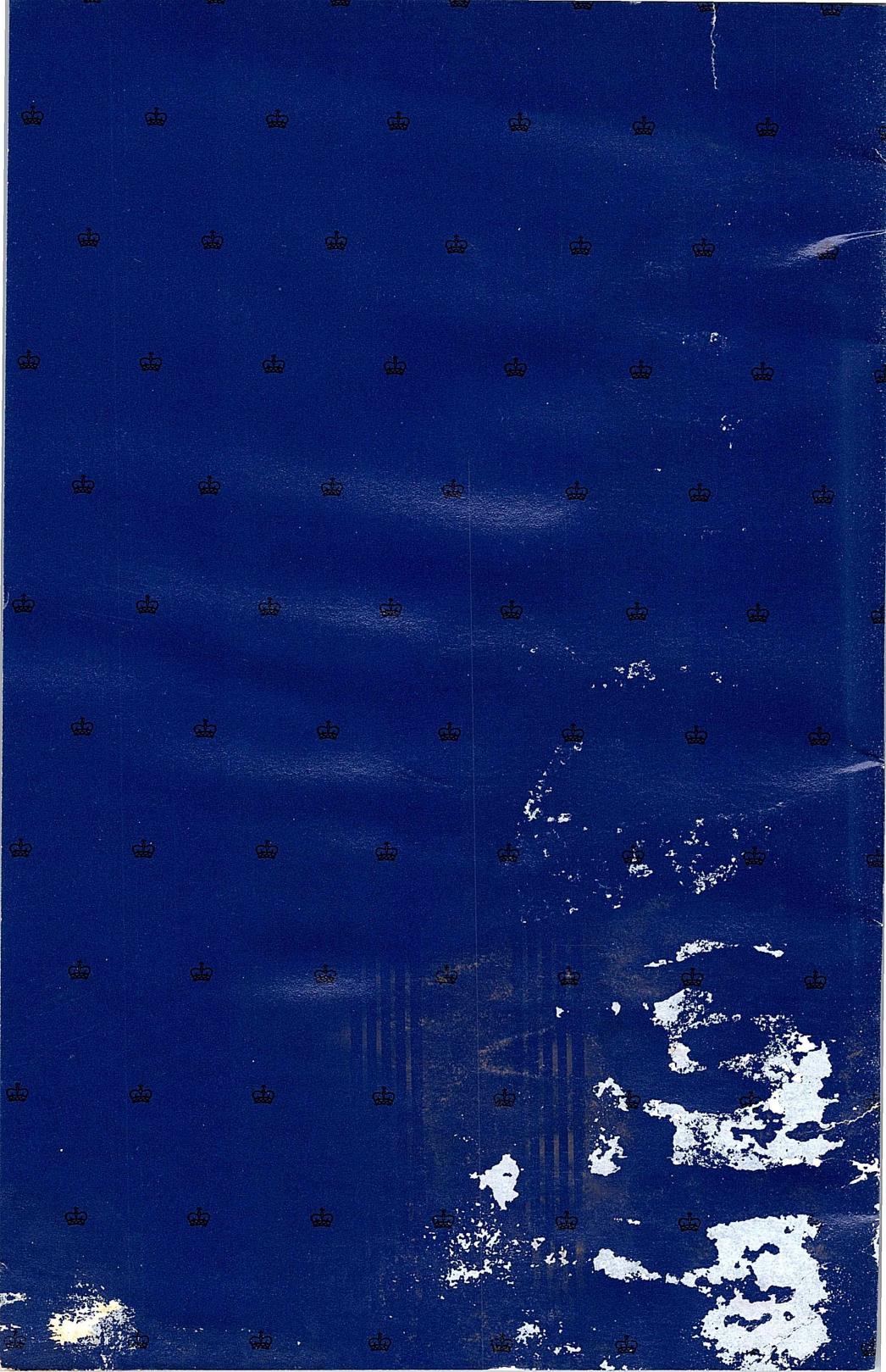




GOVERNMENT HOUSE
WELLINGTON
NEW ZEALAND







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First Published

1989

Department of Internal Affairs
Wellington, New Zealand

Designed by

Lindsay Missen & Belinda Ellis

Printed by

Commercial Print

ISBN 0-477-05630-X



GOVERNMENT HOUSE WELLINGTON

Across the road from the Basin Reserve, through tall iron gates and up a long drive, stands Government House, Wellington, home of the Governor-

General of New Zealand.

It is a large, two-storeyed house, mainly wooden, with attics and a flag turret.

Built in 1910, this is the third Government House in Wellington.

The first was Colonel William Wakefield's old house, which stood somewhere near the present main steps of Parliament. The first Government House Ball was held there on 10 February, 1849. The second Government House, built in

1868, was a rather grand Italianate mansion which stood on the site of the present Executive Wing, Parliament Buildings, known popularly as "the Beehive". Lived in by successive Governors from Sir George Bowen to Lord Plunket, it served as Government House till 1910. After that it remained for many years as the Bellamy's Wing of Parliament before it was demolished to make way for "the Beehive".



NATIONAL MUSEUM N.Z.

Top: The first Government House 1840's—1860's.
Above: The next Government House in use from the 1860's—1910.

The present
Government House,
Newtown,
Wellington.



COMMUNICATE NEW ZEALAND

Lord Islington, Governor then Governor-General, was the first resident of the present House from 1912.

It is built on land originally chosen for this function, when 300 acres were set aside for Government House, Wellington College and a mental hospital. The hospital, Mt. View, was established in 1897 and closed in 1910 to make way for the construction of Government House.

THE INTERIOR

Counting the staff quarters, there are 27 bedrooms and 19 bathrooms in the House as well as several sitting rooms and service rooms. The main part of the House has 11 bedrooms upstairs and 2 major suites.

The public rooms are the Drawing Room with the Conservatory off it, the Ballroom, the Council Room, the Smoking Room and the Dining Room.

There is also a wing of offices upstairs.

The House was extensively renovated and redecorated during Sir David Beattie's term of office.

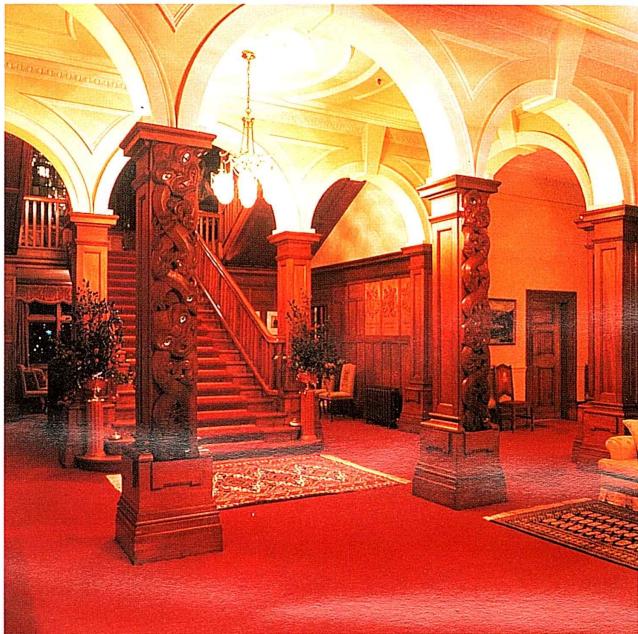
THE ENTRANCE HALL

The theme is heraldic. Around panelled walls are the carved Coats of Arms of former Governors-General who have lived here. Natural lighting is mainly through large stained glass windows on the landing of the main staircase. A central feature of these is the Royal Coat of Arms.

THE MAORI CANOE

This model presently stands on the landing at the top of the main staircase. It was commissioned by the Earl of Ranfurly when he was Governor of New Zealand and was taken to England when he returned there in 1904. Maurice C. Smith, LL.B., acquired the canoe while resident in London and decided to return it to Government House in Wellington to remain there as a permanent fixture commemorating the term of office of Sir Arthur and Lady Porritt, 1967-1972.

The Main Hall and
Staircase.
The Pou can be seen
on the two pillars in
the foreground.



THE POU

Two Pou, or pillar facings, carved in the Taranaki style face all visitors entering through the main door. Each is over 7 feet tall and 13 inches wide. Carved by inmates of Witako Prison who made up a class at Petone Technical Institute under the supervision of Mr Jock McEwan, they were a personal gift to the present Governor-General, Sir Paul Reeves. Sir Paul carved a small piece himself as they were being completed. The wood is cut from a totara pile from the old Huddard Parker Building, demolished on Jervois Quay, Wellington.

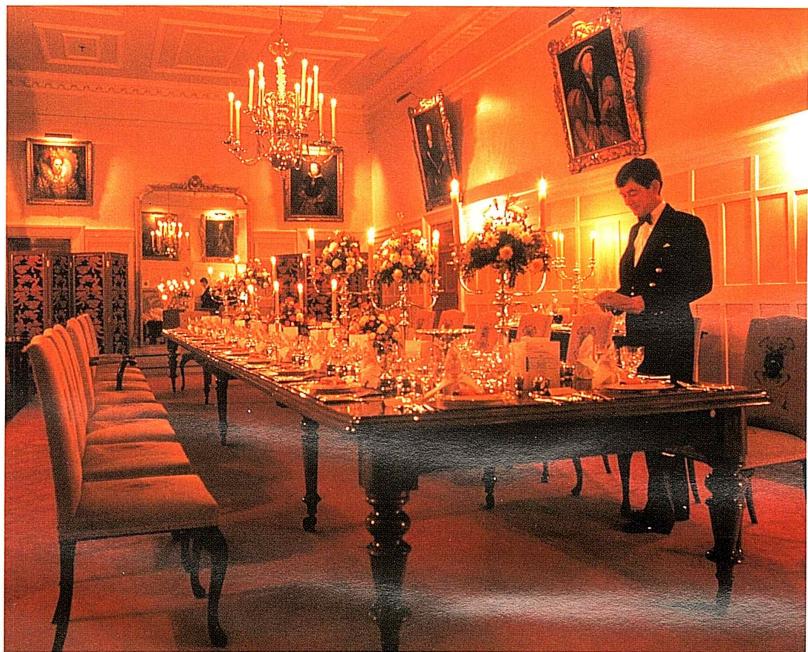
THE DINING ROOM

The long extending table seats 24 at a formal dinner. A set of 38 tapestry dining chairs was ordered in a project directed by Lady Freyberg, to be used during a proposed Royal Visit by King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. The design on the back of each chair embodies the Coat of Arms of one of New Zealand's



principal cities and boroughs. The room has a Salle carpet, Liberty curtains, an ornate brass candelabra, probably Dutch (found in a storeroom by Lady Beattie and restored), some of the Vogel Silver and part of the outstanding collection of art given to the House by Lord Norrie in 1957. Also there is the sterling silver equestrian statuette of the first Duke of Wellington on his horse, Copenhagen, presented to the House by the 10th Viscount Cobham, a kinsman.

The equestrian statuette of the first Duke of Wellington.



The Dining Room —
the candles are lit and the Butler
checks the table, set for a formal dinner,
just before the guests enter.



The Vogel Silver.

THE VOGEL SILVER

Ornamental table silver consisting of:
One main centrepiece (a type of epergne)
Two large fruit dishes on stands
Four medium fruit dishes on stands
Two small fruit dishes on stands.

The two small dishes can screw into the two large ones to make a two-tiered construction.

The main centrepiece is inscribed "Presented to the Hon. Julius Vogel, C.M.G. President of the Executive Council, of New Zealand, by the Citizens of Dunedin. 1874." The marks on the silver indicate it was made by Garrards of London in 1873.

THE NORRIE COLLECTION

King Henry VIII (Artist unknown — English School)
Queen Elizabeth I (Mather Brown)
King Edward VI (Artist unknown)
Queen Mary I (Marcus Gheerserts the Younger)
King Charles I (Sir Anthony van Dyck)
King Charles II (Artist unknown — English School)
King James II (Artist unknown — English School)
Oliver Cromwell — Lord Protector of England (Robert Walker)
King Richard II (Artist unknown)
Prince George of Denmark (Artist unknown — English School)

Outside the Dining Room stands the Peter McIntyre Screen, commissioned by Lady Freyberg in 1951. It depicts Wellington by day on one side and Wellington by night on the other.

Painting of
Charles I's children
by Sir Anthony
van Dyck.



THE DRAWING ROOM

This elegant L-shaped room is used for formal receptions and ceremonies. Opening off it are the Conservatory and the Small Drawing Room. The centrepiece of the latter is a large Dresden China grouping of eight figures.

The Drawing Room has three important paintings. Two are from the Norrie

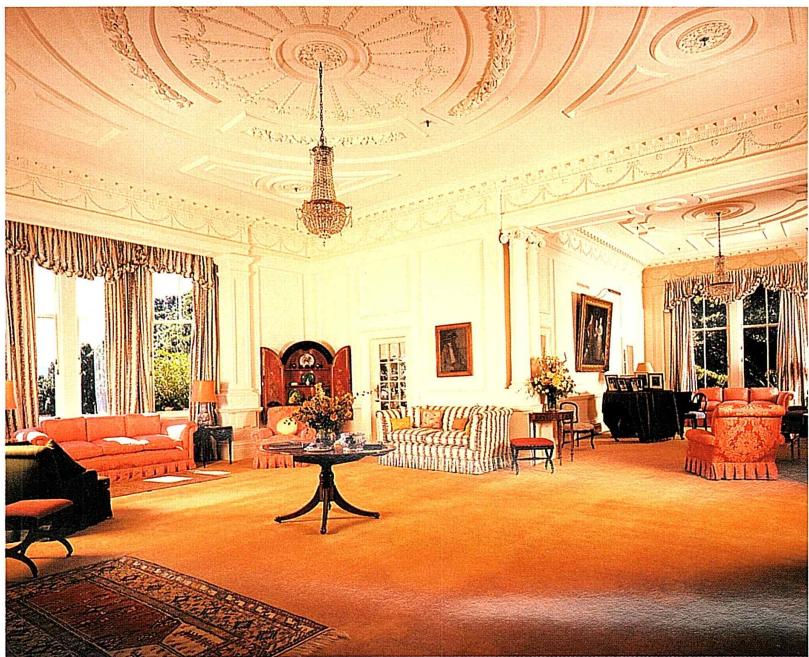
Collection. They are of Queen Henrietta Maria (Albert Krafft — after Sir Anthony van Dyck), wife of Charles I, and mother of the three children in the painting over the piano, which was painted by Sir Anthony van Dyck. The painting shows the future Charles II, James II and Mary, Princess Royal and later Princess of Orange (her only son became William III). This portrait is an exact replica, by the same artist, of a famous original now hanging in Windsor Castle.

The third portrait is of Captain Charles Clerke, R.N., by Sir Nathaniel Dance-Holland. It is the only known portrait of this close friend of Captain James Cook. Clerke sailed with Cook on all three of his great voyages — Third Lieutenant on ENDEAVOUR (first voyage), Second Lieutenant on RESOLUTION (second voyage) and Commander of DISCOVERY on the third voyage, succeeding to the command of RESOLUTION on Cook's death. The painting was presented by the Viscount Galway in 1941.



Portrait of Captain Charles Clerke, R.N., by Sir Nathaniel Dance-Holland.

DAVE GREENBURG



The Drawing Room.

DAVE GREENBURG

THE BALLROOM

At one end is the dais on which stand the two formal, Vice-Regal chairs. Above these hangs a portrait of Her Majesty The Queen, painted by Denis Fildes.

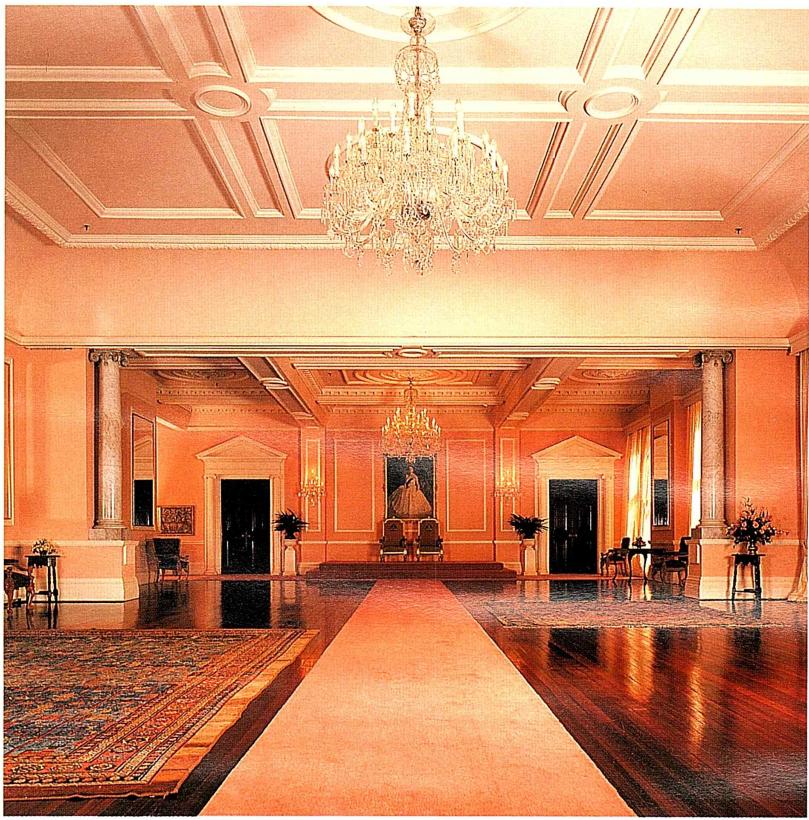
The Ballroom is used for large functions, concerts, balls and investitures.

THE CHANDELIERS were bought in 1966 and are of Czechoslovakian crystal. They are the same as those hanging in the entrance hall of the Dorchester Hotel in London. They have to be winched down for cleaning, and each piece is polished individually.

THE LARGE NORTH PERSIAN RUG originally belonged to Sir George Grey and was given by the Vogel family.

THE SILK EMBROIDERY is interesting on two counts. Originally made up as a firescreen, it was embroidered around 1860 by Julia Jekyll, who was Barbara, Lady Freyberg's grandmother. In 1863 her second son, Arthur, was one of those lost when HMS ORPHEUS was wrecked on the bar of the Manukau Harbour. In the absence of a marked grave, Lady Freyberg, when in New Zealand as the Governor-General's wife, gave the embroidery in memory of Arthur. The colours in this embroidery were used by Lady Beattie as the basis of the colour scheme used throughout Government House in the latest redecoration.

THE CARVED KAURI CHAIRS which match the table in the Council Room are usually kept in the Ballroom.



DAVE GREENBURG

The Ballroom
looking towards the dais with chairs, flanked
by doors into the Drawing Room.

THE COUNCIL ROOM

This room has a Maori/Polynesian theme with pictures and artifacts of Aotearoa and the Pacific. It is used mainly for meetings.

THE LARGE KAURI TABLE which dominates the room was given to the people of New Zealand by the Directors of Dominion Breweries in 1986. It is carved, along with the 12 matching chairs and a lectern, out of a single 3,000-year-old kauri tree. The tree was dead when felled. The table-top weighs $\frac{3}{4}$ tonne and it took 17 men to lift it into place. The edge and base of the table are carved in Te Whanau-a-Apanui style by Brian McCullough.

THE KIWI FEATHER CLOAK: Brought to New Zealand by Sir Bernard Fergusson in 1962, this magnificent cloak was bought in a country store in Hawke's Bay in 1926 or 1927 by Lady Marjorie Dalrymple who at that time was Headmistress of Woodford House. She took it to Scotland when she returned there in 1928. In 1962 she handed it to Sir Bernard Fergusson on the eve of his departure to bring back to New Zealand for it to be hung in perpetuity in Government House.



The Council Room with the large kauri table.

THE SMOKING ROOM

This is a large airy sitting room used to receive small groups of guests, or as a public room during big receptions such as investitures. It is comfortably furnished with deep armchairs and settees.

THE GROUNDS OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE

These cover about 12 hectares, of which part is flat lawn with gardens and part is quite steep hillside. Extensive tree planting of both native and exotic species has recently been carried out. The first building seen when entering the grounds is the Policeman's Lodge at the main gate. Other buildings and facilities are a tennis court and pavilion, a swimming pool, squash court, 8 cottages, plant nurseries and glass houses and the Government House garages.

There are about 20 gardeners who care for the grounds.

In the garages is a fleet of 5 cars for which there are 2 Chauffeurs.



DAVE GREENBURG

A corner of the House with rose garden.

THE HOUSE STAFF

There are 9 pantry staff, including a Butler, Under Butler, Valet, Dresser and Footmen.

The kitchen staff is 6, including 3 Chefs drawn from the Armed Forces.

5 Housemaids care for the House, and a Handyman/Carpenter completes the group.

However, in addition, there is the band of part-time workers known as the ‘‘Ladies in Black’’ who are called on to help serve at large official functions.

THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S PERSONAL STAFF

This comprises the Comptroller of the Household, 2 Aides-de-Camp, a Personal Assistant for the Governor-General's spouse and a Press Secretary.

THE OFFICIAL STAFF

Headed by the Official Secretary to the Governor-General, there is a staff of 7 people — Administration, Executive, Advisory and Secretarial Officers.

SOME INTERESTING EXTRAS...

1. When the Governor-General is in residence, the Governor-General's Flag is flown from the turret on the House.
2. When Her Majesty the Queen is in residence, the Queen's Personal Flag for New Zealand is flown from the turret.
3. When visiting Heads of State are staying in the House, their National Flags or Personal Standards are flown from a flagpole in the lawn outside the main entrance.
4. When the Governor-General travels, his/her Flag is flown from the car, ship or aeroplane (except scheduled commercial flights) in which he/she is carried.
5. The front lawn is mown in a Prince of Wales Feathers pattern.
6. In a wall in the grounds which includes bricks from the remains of the old Mt. View Mental Hospital, there is some cryptic graffiti from those pre-Government House days.
7. The bedroom suites are all named after previous Governors-General.
8. Government House would be the biggest state house in New Zealand.
9. All the crystal and chinaware of the House is engraved or embossed with a Crown.



